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PLAIN ANSWER
TO THE
PLAIN REASONER.

WHEREIN

The Present State of Affairs is set, not in a NEW but TRUE Light; in Contradiction to the *REASONER*, who advises the Continuance of a LAND-WAR, and *doubling our Debts and Taxes*, as the only Means of recovering our Trade, remaining Free, and becoming Rich and Happy.

To which is added,

An exact Account of the Present neat Revenues and Expences of *France*, from the Royal Registers of that Kingdom; to be compared with those of *Great-Britain*.



L O N D O N :

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A

PLAIN ANSWER TO THE Plain Reasoner, &c.

FOREIGNERS say of us, and I fear not altogether untruly, that we are greater Bigots to *Novelty* and the *Marvellous* than any Nation in *Europe*. They have likewise been Charitable enough to attempt reclaiming us, but either we had too great a Contempt for them or Nature was too prevalent. They have try'd in all Shapes : They have sneer'd at our Extravagance, and ridicul'd our false Taste ; in short, they held up the Glass to us in various Positions ; but still either we could not see the Deformity they imputed to us, or which was less excusable, would not stoop to a Correction, because Foreigners, whom we naturally despise, saw

the Imperfection and advised the Amendment. This false Steadiness, which if I mistake not, degenerates to Wilfulness, is pretty much of a piece with our adhering to the Julian Computation of Time, though we know the *Gregorian* to be more perfect. 'Tis true, both Calculations were of the Invention of Foreigners ; but *Gregory* was a Pope.

I don't expect to meet with more Credit, or have better Success than those Foreigners who have so frequently and delicately touch'd upon the Subject of our Itch to every thing that is New, and Admiration of every thing without Meaning, provided it be usher'd to us with Pomp and Noise. No matter how empty the Cask, if it sounds big. We are too good natur'd, or in other Words, too indolent and credulous to perceive the Infection contain'd in the Packet, if it be wrapt in gilt Paper, and ty'd round with Silk.

This Propensity we have to the *Marvelous*, puts me in Mind of what a brave, old Officer, who served all King *William* and Q. *Ann's* Wars, said to a Friend that ask'd him, how it came that one of his Sense, Family, Fortune and Merit had never Married ? I know no Reason, reply'd the sensible Man, except that I was not wise enough to address the Ladies in Pantaloons, Whiskers and a Granadier's Cap. I doubt not there

there are Exceptions among the Fair, having known some Women prefer Modesty and good Sense to Rant, Impudence and Emptiness ; and I hope there are some among the other Sex also, who do as heartily despise all vain pompous Pretenders to *Reason* and Virtue.

To these then, and not to such as are charm'd with *Sound* and *Novelty*, I dedicate my Labours. I consult the Taste of those only who love and seek *Truth* and *Reason*, because of their own Native Force and Beauty, and who can distinguish and despise *Untruth* let it be deck'd out never so pompously and gorgeously.

The Quack and Empiric makes his way by Impudence and Noise, whilst the regular learned Physician too often becomes a Sacrifice to his own Modesty and Merit. And thus it fares with Authors, and particularly those that dabble in Politics and pretend to direct and inform the Public. He who really wishes well to the Community, modestly and truly points out the Means of easing them of their Burden, recovering their Trade, ascertaining their Freedom ; he in short, who has no View but their Interest, nor Aim but their Happiness, shall have his Works left unthumb'd on his Bookseller's Shelves ; whilst the vain, empty, bold, intrepid assertor of *Untruth*, the founder of false Supputations, and broacher of new and pernicious

nicious Maxims, shall see his infectious Lib-
cubrations run into various Editions and
grace every Toilet.

Who would be so unfashionable as not to have read the BY-STANDER and FACTION DETECTED, though the first was a heap of false and dangerous Maxims and false Computations, and the latter, a scandalous impudent Libel on the Nation and an untenable Vindication of Measures generally held to be equally wicked and injurious? And who on the other hand would be so Uncourtey, as to take Pains to be set right, by perusing the Antidotes (*a*) to these Packets of Infection? The former had the Advantage of Novelty and the Marvelous, the latter of Truth and Candour only. Those were calculated to *deceive* and *mislead*, in order to serve the Purposes of a Court and Ministry; these to warn the People of their Danger, by exposing the Wiles, Arts and Falsehoods of their mask'd Enemies.

I am led to the Consideration of our Native Depravity, with regard to Novelty and the Marvelous, by the perusal of a late Pamphlet call'd the PLAIN REASONER, &c. which I understand has found its way to most Hands in Town. I have often, with deep Concern, known the Publick mistaken in

(a) A full Answer to the By-Stander, &c. printed in 1743.
And The Defence of the People, &c. Answer to *Faction Detected*.

in their Choice of Authors ; but of all their Errors in this particular, I think their Fondness or Approbation of this *False Reasoner* is the most Egregious and Unpardonable. Here is a Writer without any kind of Merit in Nature either as to Truth, Diction or Argument, being one continued, pompous, scurrilous, false heap of Rant and Rhapsody from the first Page to the last, except where he owns the want of *publick Virtue* and growth of *Corruption* within the last half Century. Yet this is he who is cry'd up for a *good Writer* and a *Reasoner*. If Vanity and Declamation be good Writing ; if calling all who shall dare dissent from his Positions, Rascals, Vermin, Wretches, Scoundrels, Hirelings, &c. be a mark of Politeness and good Writing, I admit that this Author carries the Bell from all I have ever read. I confess, to use his own Courtly Epithets, that he writes with more *Arrogance* and *Impudence* than any Writer extant, which perhaps with some may pass for Elegance and Smartness.

One would think that to Abuse and Vilify was the way to Applause here amongst us *Englishmen*. For see how familiarly our *Reasoner*, as he calls himself, treats them in a Lump ! “ A Minister that will flourish and be admir'd, must have such a happy Genius and Abilities, as not only to please both Prince and People, but ” also

" also to establish in their Minds a firm
 " belief that it is their respective Interests to
 " be *pleas'd*; which is perhaps impossible,
 " in a Nation where hardly two Persons
 " are of a Mind, where two rarely reason
 " on the same Principle, and where the ge-
 " nerality don't reason at all.

Here are we call'd Brutes, mere Beasts of Burden, Mules fit for nothing but to let every swaggering Scribler impose upon our Understandings, and every adventurous Minister dispose of our Lives and Fortunes as he pleases. *There is no two of us agree on what we would have, or is fit for us; and the generality have neither Principle nor Reason.* Again, to please *Madmen* is like attempting to storm the Heavens, &c. An odd Portraiture of a People whom he wou'd perswade to believe that their Condition would be much mended if their *Debts and Taxes were doubled*. *Instead of Fifty Millions which, he says we owe, we must increase it to a Hundred, if we would Thrive and Flourish, get rid of our Debts and bang France.*

I doubt not that the considerate Reader will be surpriz'd that an Author, who addresses his Labours to a serious People, should be admir'd by that very People for abusing them in almost every Page of his Work, and insulting their Understandings by treating the most grave and interesting Subject

Subject in Nature with the air of Fiction and Romance. What can be a greater Abuse than to call a whole People *Madmen, and Creatures without Principle or Reason, without Virtue or Honesty?* What can be a grosser Insult than to tell a People Groaning under the Pressure of an immense Debt and exorbitant Taxes, which have already ruin'd their Commerce, and have hung upon them now almost half an Age, that they will never be happy till their *Burden, the Clogs upon their Trade and Industry, and the Influence of the Crown be doubled?*

This, most certainly, is the Scope of all this Author's pompous Declamation. All his *Reasoning*, or rather his Attempts of Reasoning, for there is not the least Shadow of Argument in all his Work, but where he builds on false Calculations ; all his Labours, I say, tend to persuade us, that it is our Interest to continue the War, and particularly a *Land-War* with *France*, and to double our Debts and Taxes in order to carry on such a War, till *France* is brought upon her Knees to sue to us for Peace, as the *States General* are said to have done in *Cromwel's Days.* And as this Adventurer deals in the *Marvelous*, with which he has charm'd the Public, much more than in *Reason* or *Truth*, he advises the pursuing *France* to Destruction, tho' unaided and unallyed. This must be his Meaning, if he have any, except the

making People stare at his *Intrepidity*, as the Mob do at Dr. R—k declaiming from his Tumbrel on Market-days, when he assures us we are not to expect the *Dutch* will join in the hazardous Undertaking. 'Tis plain, says he, Page 17, "The *Dutch*, whether occasioned by Faction or Infatuation, or both, came not heartily into our Alliance. Again, Page 11, If the *Dutch* are at present pusillanimous, dishearten'd, or what is as bad, Pensioners to *France*, will they be less so when the *French* are able to enter on their Provinces at Pleasure?

There are some Men born with so great a Stock of Arrogance and Self-sufficiency, that they won't allow others to understand their own Interest, or even think for themselves. And our Author is certainly at the Head of the first Class of these Dictating Vizirs. He won't allow the *Dutch*, so famous for their Love of Freedom, and bias to Self-interest, to be Judges in their own Cause, or see their Wants and Danger. They are, with this Dictator, Fools, Cowards, or Madmen, or which is worse, Pensioners to *France*, whose Gold they love more than they hate her Chains. Strange, that a People deem'd for more than two Ages, the wisest and bravest in *Europe*, should be struck blind and lame at once by the Magic of *French* Gold ! But would not a serious Man rather think this *Tatler* mistaken in his

his chimerical Dread of *French* Shackles, than believe on his Credit that the *Dutch* are the corrupt, weak People he describes them to be?

The World is too well acquainted with the Wisdom and Virtues of the *Dutch*, to take this Scribler's Word that they are become Cowards, Idiots or Pensioners. That wise People have had enough of Wars with *France*. They have incur'd a large Debt, and almost ruin'd their Trade by imbibing a Jealousy of the Views of *France* to universal Monarchy. They see their own Inability to make *France* less than she is; and they are fully satisfy'd she has no Intention to extend her Limits on that Side which might give them most Umbrage. They doubt not, as I do, that *France* might wish to be Mistress of all the Territories to the *Rhine*, including the *Austrian Netherlands*, but they are sure she never will venture the Extension of her Limits at the Risk of confederating all *Europe* against her. They can see that *France* may be as powerful at Sea with the Ports she has now in Possession, as if she could add to them those of *Ostend* and *Nieuport*, which are the only she could get by the Acquisition of *Flanders*.

I would advise all Dealers in Politics to acquire a competent Knowledge in Geography before they venture expatiating on the Description of Countries, and the Con-

quences arising from the Situation of Places. For want of this necessary Knowledge, our pretending *Reasoner* has committed many Absurdities. He seems to admit that we may stand pretty well on our own *Bottom*, as he phrases it, if *France* grows not more powerful at Sea than her present Situation will admit of. But insists, we are undone, inevitably lost and ruin'd, shou'd she become Mistress of the Harbours of *Ostend* and *Nieuport*.

" If we suffer, (says this strenuous Advocate for a *Land-War* and the C—t, " Page 9, and 10,) *France* to conquer *Flanders*, our Fate is plain, and we have no Means to prevent it, but by beating them, let the Risks in other Respects be what they will"—He tells you in another Place, that these Risks are, *the Doubling your Debts and Taxes*. He goes on.—" The Matter then rests only to consider which is the best Way to beat them."—Here he tells you it must be by *Land*, and then concludes ; " But if they are once suffer'd to conquer *Flanders*, they will, by that Acquisition, be able to support their most warm Pursuits, and bid Defence to all the Interruptions you can give them by Sea ; and what plainly and naturally follows, will have in the End a Naval Power, that may bid fair for the Empire of the Ocean."

Now

Now had this Dabler ever so little a Smattering of Geography or History, he would have known that the only Ports in the *Austrian Netherlands* are *Ostend* and *Nieuport*, both Bar'd Harbours, and therefore uncapable of being made fit for the Reception of Ships of great Burden, much less of a Royal Navy. *France* has no Need of these two paltry Ports, when she has *Dunkirk* so near, which has one of the best Roads in *Europe*, and capable of being made to receive Men of War of almost the first Magnitude. 'Tis hard then to conceive this Author's Meaning, unless he means the plunging his Country into a *Land-War*, in order to impoverish us, and thereby render us the more supple under the Rod of our *H——n* Task-masters, when he frightens us with the Conquest of *Flanders*. Supposing the Thing practicable, why should *France* be so infinitely more formidable to us at Sea than she is at present? The Addition of the two only *Flemish* Ports she could acquire could never add to her naval Strength, for the Reasons given above. " But (says our *Meddler*) " she might increase her Trade by the Addition of *Flanders*, and by that Means " increase her naval Power by the Increase " of Seamen."

'Tis true, there is no being powerful at Sea without Seamen; but Seamen alone won't

won't do it without Ports. Therefore let *France* have what Number of Seamen she will, her naval Power can never be great and permanent, unless she puts the Harbour of *Dunkirk* into the Condition it was in before the Peace of *Utrecht*, and she can make as good a one between that and *Brest*. There is no Appearance that she designs to put *Dunkirk* into its pristine Condition, and there is not a Possibility of her ever having such another Port in the Channel, because there is no Road or Anchoring-Ground on the *French* Coast of the Channel, from *Dunkirk* to *Brest*, except under the *Cape*, at the Entrance of the Harbour of *St. Malloes*, which the Treasure of *Europe*, and Art of Man, could never turn into a Port capable of a Royal Navy.

France indeed may for a Spurt be powerful at Sea, as she was in the Reign of *Lewis XIV*. But her Power can never be durable, at least never formidable to *England*, without one or more safe Harbours in the Channel. Her present Impotence at Sea does not proceed from want of Seamen, there being at this very Time Sixty Thousand actually register'd in the King's Books, which he may command at Will ; besides perhaps, as many more unregister'd. I am not sure but *France* has more Seamen than *Britain* ; but am very certain she has enough

enough to man more Ships of War than *Britain* has, tho' she has now more in Number than ever was known.

Therefore, 'tis not for want of Seamen, that *France* seems to have neglected her Marine, nor even for want of Wealth to support the Expence. 'Tis for a Want she can never supply, the want of Ports in the Channel ; and because she is contented, and would rather increase her Commerce, than give Umbrage to her Neighbours, by either an Addition of Territory, or an Augmentation of her naval Forces.

Trade is become the chief Object of the Attention of *France* ; and we may thank ourselves for the swift Progress she has made within these fifty Years. We fought her into Trade ; it being certain, that before the *Revolution* she scarce knew what foreign Commerce was, and the Woollen Manufacture not at all. We may thank ourselves therefore, for her rivaling us in some Branches, and out-stripping us in others. We would unwisely follow the Advice of such frothy Declaimers as our pretending *Reasoner*, and embark in *Land-Wars*, which were, and ever will be the Ruin of this Nation.

He might have gone higher than Queen Anne's Reign, to fix our Fondness for foreign Wars ; but for him to speak *Truth* would be swerving from Nature. Perhaps,
the

the *Revolution* might have made it necessary, or at least give a Colour for our meddling in the Quarrels and Broils of the Continent. But whatever was the Cause or Motive, there is no disputing, that our Itch of thrusting the Nose into every one's Affairs round *Europe*, had first seiz'd us in the Year 1688.

" It was (says this puny Politician, p. 2.)
 " in the Reign of Queen *Anne*, the una-
 " nimous Opinion of Prince and People,
 " that *France* was too powerful, and was
 " every Day growing greater; that such
 " Power ought to be check'd by every
 " Means, and at any Expence." This
 Opinion was inculcated in the preceding
 Reign, when a Prince bred, and delighting
 in the *Land-Service*, fill'd the Throne. What
 Queen *Anne* did was a Necessity upon her,
 and upon her People. Her Predecessor
 being over-reach'd by *France* in the *Par-
 tition-Treaty*, had enter'd into an Alliance
 before his Death against that Crown, in
 hopes to recover by Arms what he had lost
 in the Cabinet. Therefore Queen *Anne*
 was forced into a Land-War, because
France became too powerful by the Ad-
 dition of the *Spanish Monarchy*. She and
 the Nation enter'd into that War not by
 Choice, but Necessity. And who was it
 that brought that Necessity upon us ?

I am

I am far from supposing that an Injury was design'd us by the *Partition-Treaty*, but am morally sure that *Charles II.* of *Spain* had never made a *Will* in Favour of a Son of *France*, if he had not thought himself grossly abus'd, as he certainly was, by that Treaty, which was artfully laid before him by *Lewis XIV.* as soon as ratify'd. If then no such *Will* had been made, *France* had not got peaceable Possession of the *Spanish Monarchy*; and by Consequence, we should have no Need to think her more powerful than the Treaty of *Ryswick* left her, nor declare War against her.

I have often wonder'd at the Insagacity of King *William's* Ministry, for not seeing that *Lewis XIV.* must have had the Crown of *Spain* in View, when he condescended to give us Peace at *Ryswick*. I must call that Condescension, when a Man lays down the Cudgels, that has the Advantages of Skill, Strength, and Success on his Side. This was exactly the Case with *Lewis XIV.*, when he gave us Peace at *Ryswick*. He beat the Allies every-where, was always before them in the Field, as *France* always will be in *Flanders*; and yet in the midst of his Successes he listens, nay, almost sues for Peace. As Humility and Love of Concord were no Ingredients in *Lewis's* Character, methinks, it might easily have been seen that he wanted to be

disengag'd at the Death of *Charles II.* of *Spain*, who was then in a most declining State of Health. But our *Reasoner* will have that Peace owing to *Lewis's* Dread of our Power and Resolution to prosecute the War, tho' we were unsuccessful almost every-where : " Yet in the Whole, (says he, page 31 and 32.) " both we and our Allies were at best but on the Defensive, and were not so much fighting to lower the Power of *France*, as to preserve ourselves from Slavery and Ruin ; and which nothing but fix'd and determin'd Resolutions to put all at Hazard could possibly avoid." Here is a plain Confession that we were unsuccessful. He goes on : " We did so, and to support such Resolves, did not so much consider the spending Part of our Wealth, as whether we should have any to spend. The *French* plainly saw this, and therefore wisely concluded, that an advantageous Peace was better than a hazardous War. A Peace was made accordingly (at *Ryswick*) which in Effect gave the House of *Bourbon* a very dangerous Acquisition."

Our *Reasoner*, who knows just as little of the present State of Affairs as of the Motives that induced *France* to give us Peace at *Ryswick*, has his Fling at the poor Treaty of *Utrecht*, which has been the standing Mark for all half-fledg'd Politicians to point their

their feeble Shafts at for many Years past. Never was public National Transaction more misrepresented, or less understood than that Treaty. It became necessary from our Inability of bearing the unequal Burden of the War thrown upon us by our Allies : And it procured us such Advantages, would we avail ourselves of them, as would have ruin'd the Trade and woollen Manufactures of *France*, and consequently encourag'd our own. But the destructive Spirit of Party which raged at the Time of the Conclusion of that Treaty, prevented all the good Effects that naturally would have accrued from it. By the Treaty of Commerce agree'd to at *Utrecht*, we might import our *Woollen* and all other Goods to *four* of the principal Ports of *France*. By this single Privilege we might destroy the Trade of *France*, of which the *French* were so sensible, that there were Bonfires all over the Kingdom, when it was known that the Commerce-Bill dropt in our House of Commons.

The same injurious Party-Spirit deprived us at the same Time, of a *Pledge* which would for ever be a Curb upon *France* and a Security for our Navigation. This was *Dunkirk*, which was offer'd to remain in our Hands with all its Fortifications ; and the Inhabitants offer'd to maintain a Garrison of ten thousand Men at their own Expence. And what was this Party ? Who were those Enemies to their

Country who thus, out of selfish Views, oppos'd every Measure that tended to her Advantage? They were such sanguine Politicians as our *Reasoner*, who were for continuing the War with *France*, though the inevitable Ruin of their Country was obvious from its Continuance. They were those who might have made a glorious Peace at *Gertruydenburg*, *France* offering *Lille*, *Straßbourg*, Lower *Alſace*, every thing but ſhedding the Blood of her Grandchild, but would not, because they found their private Account in the Continuance of the War.

It would be an Injustice to the Memories of those who most oppoſ'd and malign'd the Treaty of *Utrecht*, not to own that they were ſoon afterwards ſincerely ſorry and heartily repented having prevented the good Effects of it. Nay, they went ſo far as to endeavour recovering the Mistake they had committed. For upon the Accession, Application was made to *France*; but thank you, the *French* Ministry knew too well the inestimable Value of the Jewel we had flighted, to make us a ſecond Offer. Yet ſo little does this Scribler, who ſtiles himſelf a *Reasoner*, know of that Treaty, the Motives, Nature or Consequences of it, that he falls in with the vulgar Prejudice, and afferts it to have been wicked and flagitious. “ Fortune favour'd us; (says he Page 2, speaking of Queen Anne's War, “ the Genius
 v. 1. , of

“ of *France* droop'd before us, their Armies
 “ were destroyed, their Fleets laid up to
 “ rot, their Trade ruin'd, and their People
 “ starved : When on a Sudden, as if some
 “ evil Spirit had possessed us, an universal
 “ Outcry was rais'd against the War, the
 “ best Ministry we ever had dismissed, and
 “ by a Peace suddenly clapt up, the most
 “ wicked and dishonourable, that in the
 “ Situation of Affairs could possibly have
 “ been contriv'd.”

I can never agree that the Ministry who rejected Peace at *Gertruydenberg* in 1709 were the best we ever had ; being of Monsieur *Van Hoey*'s Opinion, that the best Minister was he who consider'd *Peace* as the greatest Blessing for all Countries and all States, and *War*, on the Contrary, as the greatest of all Evils. But I may provoke my Reasoning Antagonist, should I take upon me to judge of the Actions of Ministers.
 “ Every *Englishman*, (says he Page 13.) is
 “ a Politician, and conceives he has a Right
 “ to judge of public Affairs ; not because
 “ he understands them, but because he has
 “ Liberty to say and think what he pleases.”

— *Thought* indeed is free, and will be so in spight of Penal Laws, so multiply'd of late ; but I deny that a Man may say what he pleases, unless he would incur the heavy Penalties inflicted by those Laws. Now might I speak my Mind with Safety, I could

could point out a better Remedy than *War* and double *Taxes* for the Cure of all our Evils. I could shew how we might keep *France* within proper Bounds without having Recourse to Arms ; how one might be Arbiters of the Continent without involving our selves in any of its Quarrels ; how we might enlarge our Trade and pay off our Debts, and yet lessen our Taxes ; and secure our Religion and Liberties, and yet abrogate many of those Laws that seem to secure both, but which in Reality have a quite other Effect.

And now, my flimsy *Reasoner*, would not my Scheme be more Eligible than yours ? You are for continuing the War with *France*, and without the *Dutch* too, till she be reduced ; and you are for doubling our Debts and Taxes to carry on that War. Whereas I could reduce *France* within safe Bounds without any Expence whatever. You are for doubling our Taxes, I would lessen them one half, the very first Year ; you would plunge us into a Debt of one hundred Millions instead of fifty we owe ; but I would put the Fifty in such a Way of Payment as should be agreeable to the Proprietors and not be burdensome to the Industrious. You are for a *General Excise*, in order, as you would speciously insinuate, to oblige the Crown or Ministry to part with the vast Power arising from the Collection of our various Taxes ;

Taxes; but I could find a Way for securing the Subjects from any ill Effects of this lately-created Power without a *general Excise*. Nay, I could point out the Means tho' the Excises now in being should be taken away.

But I am tyed down to Silence whilst you are at full Liberty. What I would say tends to the public Good, therefore could not expect that a vicious, corrupt People, such as you represent this Nation, would hear my Advice with Patience, or follow it if they did. But you, though you tax them with Corruption, may reckon that any Thing from you will be well receiv'd, because you deal in the *Marvelous*, and consult their Taste. I could shew them that the Way to true Happiness was by the Gates of *Justice* and *Virtue*, and that the Journey was easy and safe, and attended with no Manner of Expence. But your Road to Bliss, being more to their Gouſt, they are like to follow, tho' attended with vast Expence and a thousand Dangers.

I need not point out my pacifick *Scheme* to so profound a Statesman as you proclaim yourself to be. You can see it with half an Eye, and may, if you please, publish it, tho' I dare not. But, if ever you should do me that Honour, let me warn you, that a *Standing Army* either at home, or in *Flanders*, is no Part of my Scheme. I

am

am so great an Enemy to an useless *Standing Corps* of any Kind among a Free and Industrious People, that my Scheme contrives how we may get rid of our Army of Drones employ'd in the Collection of our numerous Taxes. I am one of those *peremptory Scribblers*, you describe, Page 45, who think our *Navy* sufficient to secure us from all foreign Invasions of any Consequence; and our *Militia*, properly regulated, able to drive back into the Sea any small Parties that may steal in upon us by the Favour of Storms or Fogs.

But you say, Page 43, " We had a Fleet
 " when King *William* landed at *Torbay*,
 " and so we had but the other Day in the
 " *Downs*, when the *French* lay almost in
 " Sight of it ; yet to what Purpose? King
 " *William* did land, and the *French* might
 " do so, if their Intentions and Prepa-
 " rations had been so suited : And a Man
 " must be a great Stranger to Maritime
 " Affairs not to know, that considering
 " Part of our Fleet, great as it is, must
 " always be employ'd at a Distance, those
 " which remain at home, were they twice
 " as many, are insufficient to prevent an
 " Enemy's landing.

The Prince of *Orange* did not invade, but came at the earnest Request of the whole People ; nay, came with the Good-will of the very Officers and Seamen of our Navy.

Navy. Will you then, or can you draw any Conclusions in Favour of a *Standing Army* from the landing in 1688 ? And what can you infer from the hovering of Fourteen *French Men of War* last Winter in the Channel ? It is well known they came out of *Brest* with a View of facilitating the Designs of *France* on *Ostend*. But, suppose they could steal two or three Thousand Men upon us, which is the most they could do, would it not be sacrificing so many of their Men, whom they could not possibly either supply, or carry off again ? But why shall you deem a Man a Stranger to *Maritime Affairs*, that should think it impracticable for an Enemy to invade us with such Numbers, as he might reasonably promise himself Success from, while we are superior at Sea ? Thirty or forty Thousand is the least Number could be sent to invade so populous an Island as *Britain* ; and one Fourth at least of these should be Cavalry. Now to transport such an Army, with the Necessaries proper for them, there must be five or six hundred Transports, and the Preparations must take up three or four Months at least. If you can think it probable we should not be prepar'd, and powerful enough at Sea to oppose such an Embarkation, you must suppose us all asleep, or so corrupted by foreign Gold, as to prefer Chains to Liberty. The Prince

of *Orange*, tho' he came but with 13000 Men, was six Months preparing, and had above four hundred Sail of Transports. And had there not been Defection in King *James's* Fleet, the Prince had not dared venture to Sea, nor had his Army, or any Part of it, gone back to tell the News of their Defeat, had not the King's Troops been as willing to receive the Prince, as the Fleet was to let him pass.

The *French*, the only Nation we have any Reason to fear, are so sensible of landing a few Troops in this Kingdom, without the Assurance of being join'd by the Natives, that tho' they were Masters of the Sea in 1691, and particularly of the Channel, having defeated our Fleet off *Beachy*, they did not attempt to land any Troops here in *England*, tho' we had only a *Militia* to defend us; all our regular Troops being in *Flanders* and *Ireland*. The *French* know that 'tis in vain to attack *England* while *Englishmen* are united, by any Force which is in the Power of *France* to invade us with. And they know also that the landing small Numbers would be sacrificing so many Men.

There is no foreign Power can affect us while we are united, and we shall be always so against *Frenchmen*, unless the bad Conduct of our Superiors force us to wish for a Change. And I won't answer that the

the People would not wish for such a Change, if ever they should be oppres'd by corrupt *Ministers*, and a *venal Parliament*, supported by a numerous *Standing Army*.

Such a *Ministry* and such a *Parliament* must have a *Standing Army* for their Support ; and a *Standing Army* will always very much contribute towards making a *Parliament* *venal*, and a *Ministry* corrupt and voracious. They are Evils that naturally beget one another ; therefore I think it a just and natural Conclusion, *That without an English Standing Army, England can never be invaded with Success.*

The *Plain Reasoner* and I differ widely in our Notions of Invasions and *French Chains* and *Wooden Shoes*. I think we have nothing to fear from *France*, while we are superior at Sea, and are united at *Home*, which we shall always be against *France*, unless a *Standing Army*, a *venal Parliament*, and corrupt *Ministry*, oblige us to wish for a Change of Masters. But he is of a quite different Opinion. A Fleet, he says, be it ever so numerous and strong, can't guard us, because the Prince of *Orange* landed, tho' we had a Fleet ; and last Year there was a small *French Fleet* in the *Channel*, tho' we had one in the *Downs*. Admirable and conclusive Reasoning for one that sets up for a public

lic *Reasoner* ! But the Main of his Argument is, that if *France* get *Flanders* from the Queen of *Hungary*, there is no temporal Power can save us from Chains. And therefore advises continuing the War, and doubling our Debts and Taxes to support it, rather than take *Lewis* the XVth's Word, that he has no Design upon the *Austrian Netherlands*.

I have already observed that *France* can have no Designs upon *Flanders*, because it would bring all *Europe* upon her Back ; and because the *Dutch*, who are next the Danger, are under no manner of Apprehension of being forced to wear Wooden Shoes. I have shewn likewise, that tho' *France* should conquer *Flanders*, she could not, from that Acquisition, become more powerful at Sea than she may without it, as there are no Ports on the *Austrian Flemish* Coast capable of being made fit for the Reception of Ships of great Burden. But tho' *France*, either with, or without *Flanders*, can't affect us, if we are tenderly and affectionately govern'd at home, I am not so sure but the *French* would find an easy Entrance into this Island, should our *Reasoner*'s Scheme take Place. Should our Debts and Taxes be doubled, as he advises, in attempting the Reducement of *France*, I don't think it wou'd be worth a poor *Briton*'s While to venture his Life against

against a foreign Invader. When a Man is as miserable as he well can be, a Change of any Kind is welcome to him. We pay already more Taxes than any Nation in *Europe*; and should they be doubled, who would be able to support the Burden? We owe now a larger Debt than any People in the World, notwithstanding that this venal Author says *France* owes more; and should our Incumbrance be doubled, who would not seek a Settlement for his Posterity in some other Country less burden'd?

When first I read this frighten'd *Reasoner's* Book, I wonder'd whence his Cowardice could proceed. I could not for my Life conceive why any Man of Sense would have so great Dread of the *French*, at a Time that their Affairs all over *Europe* seem to be less thriving than in any Period since the last general Peace. But upon maturer Reflection, I could plainly see why the Court would procure such an *Alarm* to be rung all over the Nation, on the Change of a few Ministers and the Sitting of Parliament. Last Year, it was a *French Invasion*; this, it is the Conquest of *Flanders*; the Next, if the War holds, it may be a second Invasion and a Plot. And so every Year, something as frightful as the Conquest of *Flanders*. An *Army* and a *Land-War, Foreign Troops* and *Subsidies* to Foreign Powers, may answer the Purposes of *H——r* tho'

tho' not of *England*. Therefore to ring the Conquest of *Flanders*, *French Chains* and wooden Shoes in our Ears at so critical a Juncture, was no more than may be expected from a Cabinet steer'd by the *H—r Rudder*.—But we will follow the Ringer in his Scheme.

“ The Beetles complain, (says he,) of
 “ being loaded with Taxes ; and yet won’t
 “ see that nothing but the Power of *France*
 “ can either make us Slaves or Beggars,
 “ by robbing us at once, of both our Li-
 “ berties and Properties. And however
 “ it may seem a Paradox to those who
 “ see Things only in a single Light, yet I
 “ shall undertake to prove, that by still
 “ adding to the public Debt, we shall not
 “ only suppress the growing Power of
 “ *France*, and nip it in the Bud, but
 “ also be in the most ready Way to be
 “ easier in our Taxes. As to *France*, if
 “ we remain stedfast and resolute, ’tis im-
 “ possible for her to continue her Pursuits ;
 “ and the Reasons are, *that although her*
 “ *clear Revenues are less than ours, her*
 “ *Expences are treble, &c.*”

He goes on in the next Page 21. “ In
 “ this Light *France* appears at best but a
 “ Bugbear that frightens weak Spirits, and
 “ intimidates short-sighted Men. Firm-
 “ ness and Resolution must make her sink
 “ before us, and nothing but the contrary
 “ Behaviour

" Behaviour can render her really power-
" ful." — This shrewd *Reasoner* must
certainly have been in an *Ague* while he
was penning his Declamation ; for his hot
and cold Fits are obvious throughout his
whole Performance. In one Page, *France*
is a terrible Monster ready and capable of
devouring not only *Flanders* and *Italy*, but
our *British Isles* and all *Europe* ; but
in the very next she is but a *Bugbear* to
frighten weak Spirits and intimidate the Short-sighted. *France* is every thing or
nothing, just as it serves the Purposes of the
Court and Ministry.

It would frighten a plain Man to consider
how many Millions, no less than *three Hundred and fifty*, in ready Money, besides Loss
of Trade and Industry, this *Bugbear* and one
more, the *Pretender*, cost us since the Re-
volution. Before that memorable Æra we
were in Possession of most of the Trade of
the known World, because we had no Taxes
to clog our Industry. We had no Rivals
but the *Dutch*, who, in many Branches
of Commerce could not equal us. We had
the *West India* Trade almost to ourselves,
and by Means of our *Wool* had ingross'd the
Cloathing of all or most Nations of the
World. We had no Quarrels upon our
Hands, and were at Peace with Mankind.
Our Expences therefore were moderate ;
little above *Two Millions* including our Civil
and

and Military Establishment. But how has the Scene alter'd within half a Century? We have been in one Eternal round of Expensive Quarrels; jealous of Mankind; sacrificing our Peace and Commerce and encumbering Ourselves beyond our Strength; and for what? Was it not to secure Ourselves against this Bugbear *France*, who never had the Power to hurt us Essentially, nor the *Will* to send us, if she could, the other Bugbear, the *Pretender*? *France* is too politic to involve herself but where she has an apparent Interest in so doing. But to force the *Pretender* upon *England* would not be her Interest, therefore she never intended to attempt it in Earnest, whatever she may have done to frighten a People, such as we are, that are so easily scared out of our Wits. — But we will examine what our Dictating *Reasoner* says about *France*, this Scarecrow or Terrible Dragon, just as it serves the purpose of a Ministry.

If we push France, (he says,) *'tis impossible for her to continue her Pursuits*; and the Reasons are, that her clear Revenues are less than ours, and her Expenses are treble. One would think that an Author who takes upon him to lead a whole People, should understand what he presumes to inform the Public of. But it so happens that our *Reasoner*, who attempts dictating to

to the Nation, knows nothing of the Subject he handles ; or, if he is skill'd in it, basely imposes Falsehoods upon his Readers for Truth.

Why is it more impossible for *France* than 'tis for us to continne her Pursuits, if you mean to continue the War ? We are above *fifty Millions* in Debt, and *France*, tho' her Resources surpass ours infinitely, owes not so much. We pay treble the Taxes the *French* do. Our Expences are pretty near equal to hers ; and our Revenue falls far short of hers. But what gives her infinitely the Advantage of us, is, that her Shilling will go as far as three of ours. I have the Experience of fifty Years on my side; you have but your *ipse dixit* to support your Argument. Let us call to mind the last two general Wars, and remember how *France* held out, tho' never was before, and probably we shall never again see so formidable an Alliance made against that Crown. Her Debts, at the Conclusion of the last War, amounted but to two thousand sixty-two Millions of Livres, which at *Twelve-pence Sterling* to the *French Livre*, the Currency of the Exchange, one Year with another, for many Years past, makes but *103 Millions Sterling*, tho' our *Reasoner* will have *Lewis XIV.* to owe near twice this Sum.

" *Lewis* the XIV. says he, *Page 33.* had
 " certainly as much Power to raiſe Money
 " on his People, as *Lewis* the XV. can
 " possibly pretend to, but yet he ran 175
 " Millions *Sterling* in Debt, &c." The
 greater the Shame for our Governors, that
 have not to this Hour eas'd us of our Debts,
 which did not exceed 50 Millions, when
France, who owed near four Times as much,
 got rid of most of hers in a few Years after
 the War they were contracted in.

The far greatest Part of the Debts of
France were paid off, or put in an imme-
diat Way of Payment in 1719, and the
whole Amount of them was but 2062
Millions of *Livres*, or 103 Millions *Ster-
ling*. The *Visa* in 1719 and 1720 proves
the Truth of my Assertion, beyond all
Dispute. Let the *Reasoner* prove his
where he can. I am to suppose however,
that he will hawl in poor *Du Tot* to support
him in his false and absurd Calculations,
because he affects to mention him frequently
in his Book. As indifferent a Character as
Du Tot bears in *France* and elsewhere; as
little as he is to be credited against *France*,
and in his Calculations, I will venture to
say, that he does not assert *France* to have
been indebted 175 Millions *Sterling*, or
any Sum of *Livres* equal to that Sum, af-
ter the Peace of *Utrecht*.

But

But this is not the only Burden flung upon poor *Du Tot's* Shoulders by the *Reasoner*.
 " 'Tis evident that, in many Respects, we
 " are now in a much better Situation to re-
 " pel the Power of *France*, both by Sea
 " and Land, than we were at the *Revolu-*
tion. The first Thing I shall mention
 " to make this evident, is the reciprocal
 " Debts. *France*, I do assert, is at this
 " Time above *One hundred Millions* in
 " Debt ; and those who won't believe me,
 " may satisfy themselves, by looking into
 " *Du Tot, &c.*"—Now I am one of those
 that have look'd into that Author, and can
 find no such Thing. But if *Du Tot*, who
 wrote about ten Years ago, as he asserts
 himself in the Preface to his Work, had af-
 firmed the Debts of *France* to be 100 Mil-
 lions *Sterling*, I should think him to be no
 less false and insolent than the *Reasoner* who
 quotes him.

Most of the Débts of *France* were li-
 quidated and paid off, or put in an im-
 mediate Way of Payment in 1719 and
 1720; therefore between the Year 1720
 and 1735, the Year in which *Du Tot* may
 be suppos'd to have ended his Calculations,
 it was morally impossible that she could
 have contracted so immense a Debt as a
 hundred Millions *Sterling*. *France* had no
 Wars but a very short one with the late
 Emperor, in that Interval : And supposing

her Expence exceeded her Revenues some few Millions the four Years that War lasted, how infinitely short must her Debt be of what the *Reasoner* says ?

Let it be observed, that this Debt of a hundred Millions must have been incur'd before the Year 1735. For, as I said before, *Du Tot* wrote in that Year ; and our *Reasoner* bids all who won't believe him look into *Du Tot*. How likely is it then, that in an Interval of fifteen Years Peace, except a short War of four Years with the late Emperor singly, *France* should contract a Debt of a hundred Millions Sterling ? The Thing is quite improbable ; I may say impossible, in a Country where the Revenue is more carefully husbanded than any in Europe. *Du Tot* must mean the Debt due before the Year 1719 ; and the *Reasoner*, who either did not understand him, or would impose on his Readers, quotes him to maintain his false Hypothesis.

But how are we now in a much better Situation to repel the Power of France than we were at the Revolution ? This seems to me as much a Paradox, as where the adventurous *Reasoner* says, Page 23, *That it is better for us to be one hundred Millions in Debt than fifty.* When it is consider'd that our Author deals in the *Marvelous*, nothing that he advances, be it ever so extraordinary and absurd, will be wonder'd at. Writ-

ers of his Cast are obliged to assume an Air of Superiority and Importance, and even of Singularity, to be taken notice of. 'Tis only for them who deal in Truth and Argument to write with Plainness, and walk in the common Road. As for your Dablers in *Paradoxes* and the *Marvelous*, they must strike out new Paths, like the Authors of the *By-Stander*, and *Faction Detected*, who asserted, that the great Increase of the Power of the People is become dangerous to the Crown. But leaving those Dealers in the *mysterious Sublime* to hug themselves with the Satisfaction of making some of their Readers stare, puzzling others, making many laugh, but pleasing none, in what Sense are we better able now to repel *France* than at the Revolution? We had a full Trade then, paid few or no Taxes, and owed not a Shilling. Can the *Reasōner* pretend that this is our Condition at present? Are we not tax'd to the Height, and has not our Trade declin'd as our Taxes increas'd? And are we not above *fifty Million* in Debt? — But, says our *Reasōner*, your Debt goes for nothing; the more we owe, the better. He must mean this, or nothing, when he asserts that it is better for us to be *one hundred Millions in Debt than fifty.*

In one Sense indeed, it may be so; but except in the *Spiritual*, I believe few will agree, that being in Debt adds to a Man's Happiness. Some may think, as I suppose the

the *Reasoner* does, that *Poverty* and *Sla-
v ery* are surer Guides to Heaven than
Riches and *Freedom*. And in this Sense
I own, that owing one hundred *Millions*
is better than owing but half the Sum. For
the Power of the Crown would increase
doubly by the double Increase of our Debts;
and the Taxes now appropriated for the
Payment of *Two Millions*, the Interest of
our present Debt, would be doubled to pay
Four Millions, the Interest of *one Hundred
Millions*.

But to be serious; must not an Author
be extremely singular in his Notions; or
entertain a very mean Opinion of the Ca-
pacity of his Readers, when he would at-
tempt imposing upon them in so glaring
and gross a Manner? To tell a People
groaning for near fifty Years past under the
Pressure of exorbitant Taxes, and almost
sinking under the Burden of an immense
National Debt; a People grown effeminate
and *luxurious*, from the *Example* of those
that have been *corrupted* by the Court; a
People justly complaining of a Decay of
Trade, and the Embezzlement of the pub-
lic Revenue: I say, to tell such a People,
that they are now better able to support a
French War, than at the *Revolution*, when
they ow'd not a Groat, paid few Taxes,
had a flourishing Trade, and had most of
the Powers of *Europe* for their Allies, is
such

such an insolent Insult upon their Understandings, as one shall scarce hear of among civiliz'd Nations.

To follow this vain *Reasoner* in all his Absurdities would be an endless Task; but some of his grossest I can't help touching upon: *The clear Revenues of France*, he says, *are less than ours, and her Expences are treble*. I shall shew from far better Authority than the *Reasoner*, that this Assertion is false in all its Parts. And to this End, I shall oblige the Reader with a short, but true Abstract of the neat Revenues and Expences of *France*, so late as in the Year 1742, when her Expences ran as high as the last Year, or that immediately preceding. These Abstracts are taken from the original Accounts deliver'd into the proper Offices at *Paris*, and publish'd here last Year, by a Gentleman, who dedicates his Time more usefully to the Service of his Country than most of his Cotemporary Writers: And of this the Nation in general seem highl. sensible, by the generous Encouragement he meets with in his undertaking to publish a Compleat History of *England*.

*A short State of the King of France's Revenues in the Year 1742. Taken from
(1) a Calculation publish'd by Mr. Carte
last Year.*

	<i>Livres.</i>
Demesnes and Forests	1,840,000
Tailles in the Countries of Elect.	36,100,000
Ditto ----- Estates	7,000,000
Ditto in the conquer'd Countries	6,800,000
Capitation in Countries of Elect.	12,600,000
Ditto ----- Estates	2,200,000
Ditto in the conquer'd Countries	4,300,000
Capitation of the City of <i>Paris</i>	4,600,000
Particular Capitations	1,720,000
Free Gifts of the Clergy of <i>France</i>	2,400,000
Tenths and Capitations of ditto	12,200,000
Ditto of Clergy of <i>Alsace, Per-</i> <i>pignan, Metz, Toul & Verdun</i>	752,000
Free Gifts of the said Clergy	400,000
	95,912,000
Free Gifts of <i>Burgundy</i>	1,300,000
<i>Languedoc</i>	1,200,000
<i>Bretagne</i>	1,800,000
<i>Provence</i>	2,000,000
	6,200,000

(1) *An Account of the Numbers of Men able to bear Arms in France, taken by the King's Orders in 1743, &c. sold by M. Cooper, in Pater-noster-Row.*

Revenues

The Revenues of Colonies, all Charges deducted	{	1,512,000
Tenth Penny on the Estates of the Kingdom in general, not including the Clergy	{	21,784,934
Composition for ditto of the Clergy of France at Nine Millions, but on Account of the Losses of Incumbents by the Floods in 1740 reduced to	{	6,750,000
Composition of the Clergy of Cambray, Arras, St. Omer, Metz, Toul, Verdun, Strasbourg, and Perpignan	{	1,125,534
Tenth Penny on Salaries and Pensions	{	2,417,682
Farms general united of Tobacco	{	84,000,000
of Posts and Carriers	{	11,000,000
of Coaches and Royal Tolls	{	4,200,000
Casual Revenues		215,000
Free Gifts extraordinary of the Clergy of France	{	12,000,000
Ditto of the Frontier Churches		1,240,000
Tax on Industry		12,066,400
Remainder of Lewis XVth's happy Accession to the Crown	{	2,000,000
Total of the King's Revenue in 1742 F	{	264,924,130
		By

By this Abstract it appears, that the clear Annual Revenues of *France*, the Exchange at Twelve-pence per Livre, as in my former Calculations, amount to upwards of thirteen Millions Sterling. And except the *Taille*, which we may suppose was not levy'd when *France* was at Peace, I don't see but this Account agrees with Monsieur *Du Tot's*, an Author, for whom our *Reasoner* seems to have a particular Veneration, tho' 'tis plain he understands but little of him. *Du Tot* computes *Lewis XVth's Revenue* at two hundred Millions of Livres, which at my Exchange is ten Millions Sterling. (2) *Les Revenus de Louis XV.* sont aujourd'huy de 200 Millions. And again, (3) *Et les 200 Millions de Livres dont jouit Louis XV. actuellement, &c.* And let it be always remember'd that this *French Author* comes no lower down than 1735. and that his Computations run for fourteen Years back, a Period of time in which, for a hundred Years past, the Taxes of *France* were never lighter.

Now whether we compute the neat Revenues of *France* at ten Millions Sterling without the *Taille*, or at more than thirteen Millions with it, we shall find they exceed our *British Revenues* very considerably. When have our Revenues amounted to ten Millions exclusive of the *Land Tax*, which is pretty near the same with the *French Taille*,

(2) Vol. 1. page 428. (3) Vol. 2. page 381.
or

or to more than thirteen Millions that Tax included ? We have seen sometimes ten Millions granted by Parliament, as *last Year* particularly, tho' so little has been done for so vast an Expence ; but it has never been known that that Sum, or any thing like it, has been rais'd or collected within the Year. Yet if we can't gain upon our selves to believe what we know to be false, we are Infidels, and must seek for Satisfaction of Monsieur *Du Tot*, whom our *Reasoner* looks upon as an inspir'd Author.

" The first thing (says he, page 34.) I
 " shall mention to make this evident [that
 " we are better able to repel *France* now
 " than at the Revolution] is the reciprocal
 " Debts. *France*, I do assert, is at this time
 " above one hundred Millions Sterling in
 " Debt ; and those who won't believe me,
 " may satisfy themselfes by looking into *Du*
 " *Tot*, whose Veracity the *French* themselves
 " have never disputed, because they knew
 " it was not disputable — Those who will
 " look into the same *Du Tot*, will find the
 " natural Revenues of *France* little differ-
 " ent from those of *England*.

As infallible as *Du Tot* may be with our *Reasoner*, I can assure him, that all he says is not look'd upon as Gospel in *France*. But supposing he speaks Truth, where does he say that his Country owes at this Time above a hundred Millions Sterling ? I insist

upon it, that *Du Tot* says no such Thing. He could not say it without exposing himself as much as our *Reasoner*, who I dare say understands not enough of the *French Language*, to understand *Du Tot*. This *French Author* does no where ascertain the Debts of *France*. But had he done it, and knew what he was about, he would not have made them amount to half as much as ours. Therefore until the *Reasoner* produces some better Authority than himself, I beg Leave to say that *France* does not owe one fourth of the hundred Millions he asserts she does. And I think my Word may go as far as his with any Man, who may have remark'd the Methods, I won't say how just, that *France* made Use of to discharge her Debts since 1717.

But what Credit can our *Reasoner* have with a Man, who considers how intrepidly he bolts out every Thing ever so false and unlikely, provided it answers his present Purpose? When he wrote his Pamphlet, he never thought that any one wou'd be at the Pains of exposing him; or perhaps did not care if he were exposed. Therefore, provided he could serve his Pay-masters, and persuade his Readers to a liking of a *Land-War*, he troubles not his Head about the Truth of his Assertions.—*Those, says he, who will look into Du Tot, will find the natural*

natural Revenues of France little different from those of England.

Had the *Reasoner* read, or understood *Du Tot* if he read him, he would never so bluntly father that upon the innocent *Frenchman* which he never said. I have shewn above, that *Du Tot* asserts *Lewis XVth's* annual Revenue to be 200 Millions of Livres, or ten Millions Sterling; and that, I assert, is exclusive of the *Taille* or Land-Tax, which produces annually near sixty Millions, or about three Millions Sterling. This is proved by the Abstract of the Revenues of *France*, which I quote above from Mr. *Carte's* Calculations. Now, unless the *Reasoner* can shew that the Revenue of *England* amounts to ten Millions exclusive of the Land-Tax, and to thirteen Millions when 'tis included; unless, I say, he can do this, he must pass, with all Men of Sincerity, for what he is, *the most insolent, arbitrary, unfair Author, that ever dared attempting to impose on the Public.*

As much in Love as our *Reasoner* seems to be with Monsieur *Du Tot*, he is too wise to follow him a Step further than does for his own particular Purpose. His Business being to give *Englishmen* a Goust for a *French War*, he was to produce *France* in a desperate Condition, sunk over Head and Ears in Debt, without Revenue, without Credit, and without Coin. We have shewn what

what Credit ought to be given him, with Regard to her Debts and Revenue; and *Du Tot* shews us very plainly what her Coin was in 1720 and 1728; and as for her Credit, I think the late *Tontin* or Subscription of Annuities for Life, shews that her Credit is as sound as ever. The Subscription was fill'd immediately; and such Numbers were left out that the Court was petition'd for a new Subscription. This is a Proof, that we are not to expect to run down *France* for want of Credit, at least not till we win as many Battles of her as in Queen *Anne's* Reign.

But let us hear what *Du Tot* says of the Wealth of this poor exhausted Country, which the *Reasoner* fancys we should be able to swallow up in a Campaign. Let me add however, that this Campaign must not be such as our two last were.

The best Way of judging of the Wealth of any Country is by its Specie. The coin'd Bullion of a Country may be deem'd its political Barometer; it being certain that it increases or decreases in Proportion to the National Wealth in general, and the inland and foreign Trade carry'd on by its Inhabitants. If then we may judge of the Wealth of *England* and *France* by the coin'd Bullion in each Country, we shall find ourselves in no Condition to support an expensive *Land-War* against that Crown.

Some

Some have computed our Specie at twelve Millions, some again at thirteen, but none have supposed it to exceed fifteen Millions. Now if *Du Tot* may be believed, which I suppose the *Reasoner* won't dispute, the Specie of *France* is above *four Times* as much as ours at the highest Computation. He says, Page 260 of his 1st Vol. that the Gold and Silver Specie of *France*, in 1721, was above *twelve hundred Millions* of Livres; and Page 332, that it was *thirteen hundred Millions* in 1728. So that computing the Exchange at twelve Pence the *Livre*, as we have done all along, the Specie of *France* was at a Medium sixty-two Millions and a half Sterling. Nor are we to suppose it diminish'd since, because more Money came from *Germany* and the *North* to *France*, since *Du Tot* wrote, to purchase the rich Growths and Manufactures of that Kingdom, than she was obliged to send out in Specie to pay her Subsidies.

But the Case is quite different with us; every Shilling we send out to pay *Subsidies* and our *Armies* on the Continent, is a clear Loss to the Nation, because we have no Commodities they want in those Countries, which abound in most of our Products and Manufactures. For Instance, what does *Flanders* want or take from us in Return for the Millions we send thither to pay our Troops and the Expences of the War? Nothing,

thing, or but very little, because the *Flemings* abound in every Thing we have ; and send us moreover *Lace* and *Linens* to an immense Value. Therefore we may well suppose, that the coin'd Bullion of *France* is rather increas'd than diminish'd since *Du Tot* wrote, and that ours is greatly decreas'd.

" We have, (says the *Reasoner*,) Resources infinite ; whereas the *French* have none, but the Assistance of *Spain* (which is perhaps not over-burthen'd) and in the Hopes, one Day, through our Diversions, of conquering *Flanders*, and in an advantageous Peace." — I would be glad to know from the *Reasoner*, what those infinite Resources are which he says we have. Except mortgaging the *Sinking Fund*, or doubling our Taxes, I see no Resources we have. While we have Credit, we may have Money ; but should bad Success destroy that Credit, which it certainly would, where would our Resources be then ? Now I take the Resources of *France* to be infinite, while ours are very moderate and circumscribed. There is an infinite Wealth in that Country, which perhaps don't appear, because the Subjects of a despotic Prince don't think it prudent to make a Parade of their Riches. But let it be consider'd what infinite Riches there must be in a Kingdom whose

whose Specie amounts to near *Seventy Millions* Sterling.

As I gave an Abstract of the Revenues of *France* in 1742, it may be expected I should give also an Account of her Expences that Year; and particularly as I promised so to do. But not to swell this Essay to too great a Bulk, I must refer the Reader to Mr. *Carte's* Account published last Year by *M. Cooper*. I must inform him however, that the whole Expence of *France* in that Year, where she had vast Armies in *Bavaria*, *Bohemia*, and *Westphalia*, amounted but to 284 Millions, and her clear Revenues that Year amounted to about 265 Millions; so that the Debt incur'd by *France* that Year was but nineteen Millions, or about 950 thousand Pounds Sterling.

Let us suppose then that *France* should keep us at War for ten Years, as in our two last Wars with that Crown, and that she runs not in Debt above a Million or two a Year, her clear annual Revenue being about thirteen Millions Sterling, What new Debt must we incur every Year, if we must expend as much as she? Supposing our Credit to hold during the War, which is not likely, we can never raise above eight Millions within the Year, therefore must we run above five Millions in Debt every Year. And considering our own Expence,

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and what large Subsidies we must pay our needy Allies, we can't expend annually less than thirteen Millions.

The Misfortune is, that great Part of our Revenue is sunk in Pensions, Bribes, and various Articles of Corruption. But in *France* there is not a Shilling of the clear Revenue sunk into any Minister's Pocket. The King buys every thing he wants for his Household, Armies, and Fleets cheaper than any Man in his Kingdom. There is not the least Embezzlement, but on the contrary the greatest Oeconomy imaginable in the laying out the annual Revenues of *France*.

We may judge of the Oeconomy of the French Cabinet by the Article of *Secret Service and foreign Pensions*, stated in Mr. Carte's Abstract of the Expences of *France* in 1742. It amounts but to 2,570,000 Livres, a Sum not exceeding 150,000 Pounds Sterling. Had we the same Occasions, were we engaged with as many Powers, had we as many secret Negotiations as *France*; I dare say the Article of *Secret Service* would rise to a Million at least. The Difference is, that in *France* every Penny allowed by the Government is truly and honestly laid out as design'd; but here in *England*, 'tis well if two Thirds of the Sum allow'd don't stick to the several Hands it passes through. For this Reason, as well as that the Revenues of *France* exceed

ceed ours vastly, that her Debts are not near as large as ours, and that her Crown will go as far as three of ours, we certainly are no Match for the *French* without the *Dutch*, who don't seem inclin'd to join us. And I am afraid, even should they join us, the Match would be more unequal than a Patriot *Englishman* would wish it.

But a Patriot *Englishman* and our *Reasoner* are two Animals as different as the crafty *Fox* and the generous *Lion*. The true *Englishman*, like the *Lion*, seeks the Good of his Country, without envying other Nations, or wishing to involve his own in hazardous expensive Wars, merely out of Pride and Jealousy. But the *Reasoner*, like the subtil *Fox*, consults his own private Interest more than the publick Good. He cares not what becomes of the Country, so he gains his Point. He is paid for justifying the Measures of the late bustling *Minister*, and he endeavours to earn his Wages. 'Tis indeed the Wages of Iniquity: But what of that? he must eat, and troubles not himself in what Cause he draws his venal Pen, so he is paid for it. But besides exculpating the *Minister*, may not our venal *Reasoner* have another View in persuading us to the Continuance of a War, that would certainly impoverish us? And it is well known, that the ready Way to enslave a People is to make them poor. I wish this may not

have been Part of the Scheme of our Cabinet for thirty Years past.

There is no Light we can view this *Reasoner* in, but he must appear an Enemy to this Nation. There is no disputing that his Intention is to render us Beggars and Slaves. And however speciously he declaims concerning *France* and *Flanders*, he lays himself open in so many Parts of his Work, that it is impossible not to see his Drift. *The Increase of our publick Debts*, says he, *is the most probable, if not the only Means of lessening our Taxes.* *And to render this clear to the meanest Capacity, it is necessary to go round about, &c.*

He does indeed take a very great *Round*, but he might as well have stood still all the While; for I defy any Man living to find out any thing else he means, except the persuading us into a liking of a *General Excise*. "It follows then, says he, in the same Place, Page 22, that if all those various Duties we pay were laid on the Consumer, they would, in their respective Ranks, be only one, instead of many." — That he means a *General Excise*, appears evidently from what follows.

"The present Objection to this Method is two-fold; one on the part of the State, the other on the part of the People. On the part of the State, they don't choose to bring down the Taxes
" to

" to the Consumer, because of the greater
 " Number of Employments in the pre-
 " sent Situation, in the Gift of the Ruling
 " Minister ; nor do the People choose it,
 " because they conclude it must be done
 " by way of *Excise*, to which they have
 " such an Aversion, as is not to be sur-
 " mounted, but by being to the last De-
 " gree distressed by much worse Mea-
 " sures. It follows, that nothing but ex-
 " treme Necessity can bring the two In-
 " terests to a Point ; and nothing create
 " that Necessity but such a Burthen, as in
 " the present Situation of Things is not
 " to be borne ; such Taxes occasioned by
 " such Debts, as our Estates are not in
 " any Sense able to pay, which by making
 " the public Debts double what they are
 " now, will be pretty near the Case."

Here the *Reasoner* discovers himself beyond a Possibility of mistaking that he wears the *Court-Livery*. We are to go into an Expence, which would necessarily double our Debts and Taxes, that we may be brought to admit of a *General Excise*, which would put us irrecoverably in the Power of the Court. Here we may clearly see why the Negotiations at *Hanau* were fruitless ; why pacific Offers, which would have contented the Queen of *Hungary*, the late Emperor, the *Dutch*, and all *Europe*, except one *Prince*, were rejected.

jected. We may see here also that Spirit of *Resentment* for the forced *Neutrality* for *H—r*, and the Attack at *Dettingen*, which has inflam'd all *Europe*, and contributed to the Increase of our Burden. In fine, here we may see the Drift of the *Reasoner's Pamphlet*, which was to lure us into Measures which would inevitably beggar us, and by Consequence render us Hewers of Wood and Drawers of Water to our more cherish'd younger Brethren of *H—r*.

This was the Doctrine of that other Court-Scribler, the Author of *Faction Detected*. Like this wise *Reasoner*, he would persuade us to worry *France*, till we should leave ourselves nothing worth contending for. 'Tis a Court-Doctrine ; and has been so for above half a Century ; but never has been cultivated with so uncommon Zeal and Vehemence as lately ; nor by any Writer with so much Warmth and Indiscretion, as by this vague, abusive, insolent *Disclaimer*, whom the Name of *Quibbler* would become better than that of *Reasoner*. The first he appears to be in every Leaf of his Work, and the latter no-where but in the Title-page.





